

HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION 1153

By Kernell

A RESOLUTION to honor and recognize Rhodes College and the students, faculty, and staff of Cypress Middle School in Memphis for the success of their joint dramatic production, *Hollywood Dreams*.

WHEREAS, from time to time, the members of this General Assembly pause in their deliberations to recognize the emerging voices of young artists, who enlighten and entertain with fresh artistic visions that capture the spirit of our citizens and impart our collective narrative to audiences far and wide; and

WHEREAS, certain noteworthy artists include the students, faculty, and staff of Cypress Middle School and Rhodes College, whose joint dramatic production, *Hollywood Dreams*, was the subject of the documentary film *Far Away Next Door*; and

WHEREAS, produced by Liz Daggett, director of Rhodes' Center for Outreach in the Development of the Arts, along with several Rhodes fellows, the film followed Cypress Middle School students as they collaborated to create and perform an original play in six weeks; and

WHEREAS, throughout the creative process, they drew from their own lives, triumphs, and challenges in order to produce a story that spoke to their experience; and

WHEREAS, the students struggled to prepare themselves for the show's premiere as they combated family drama, rivalries, and street violence; and

WHEREAS, as a result of this project, however, they learned how to overcome their personal struggles and succeed as a team; and

WHEREAS, Rhodes College and Cypress Middle School premiered the film on April 21, 2012, along with their unveiling of the mural "Imagine the Places You'll Go!", made by students from both schools; and

WHEREAS, the drive and determination of the students, faculty, and staff of Cypress Middle School and the compassion and dedication of Rhodes College perfectly exemplify the creative and tenacious spirit of the citizens of Tennessee; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE ONE HUNDRED SEVENTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE, THE SENATE CONCURRING, that we hereby honor and recognize Rhodes College and the students, faculty, and staff of Cypress Middle School in Memphis for the success of their joint dramatic production, *Hollywood Dreams*, featured in the documentary film *Far Away Next Door*, and extend to them our best wishes for every future success.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that an appropriate copy of this resolution be prepared for presentation with this final clause omitted from such copy.